

Make-your-Own Scarecrow - CPG

Saturday, October 4th 2pm - 4pm (Rain date Sunday, October 5th)
Join us for this festive and family-friendly activity. Materials will be provided. There will also be fall-themed games and seasonal refreshments.

Fee: \$20 per scarecrow.

Make a Hypertufa Mini-Trough - LJB

Friday, October 17th 10am - 11:30am
Hypertufa is a handmade material which resembles "tufa," a rugged volcanic rock used to make planting troughs. These containers are especially suited for small rock garden plants. You will learn how to make your own hypertufa mini-trough and receive instructions for curing it at home. Wear work clothes as the process can be messy. Workshop fee includes the cost of supplies. Enrollment is limited to 10 participants.

Fee: \$50 per person



Thankful Lights - Floating Luminaries - LJB

Friday, November 7th 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Floating a candle on water is thought to awaken the spirit of nature within us all. You will create your own lantern and decorate it with a personalized message, attach it to your illuminated float, and release it on Buck Garden's Lower Pond. Come see and experience how magical the floating lights are as they drift on the water into the night. Materials will be supplied.

Fee: \$20 per person

Make-Your-Own Wreath - NBP

Saturday, November 29th 10am - 12pm
Welcome winter and the coming holidays with a festive wreath, made from fresh and fragrant evergreens, natural materials, and handmade bows.

Fee: \$75 per person



REGISTRATION: Scan the QR code or visit our website at www.somersetcountyparks.org/horticultural-programming
For more information about events call Leonard J. Buck Garden at 908 722-1200 ext. 5621 or Colonial Park Gardens at 908 722-1200 ext. 5721.

If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908 526-5650 after you register for the program and we will be happy to arrange reasonable modifications. Three weeks notice is required to ensure that appropriate modifications can be provided.



LEONARD J. BUCK GARDEN
11 Layton Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931

COLONIAL PARK GARDENS
156 Mettlers Road, Somerset, NJ 08873

NORTH BRANCH PARK
355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08876

<https://www.facebook.com/LJBuckGarden>
<https://www.facebook.com/colonialparkSCPC>

2025 Horticulture Calendar of Events

Colonial Park Gardens & Leonard J. Buck Garden



Location Key:
Leonard J. Buck Garden.....LJB
Colonial Park Gardens.....CPG
North Branch Park.....NBP



***Programs require online registration three days in advance, unless otherwise noted in the description.**

Art and Photography Exhibit - LJB

Monday-Friday, February 18th - March 14th 10:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday March 8th 12:00pm-4:00pm

This exhibit will feature photographs, paintings, and drawings showcasing the four seasons at Leonard J. Buck Garden. See the garden's many faces through the works of talented artists and photographers. This exhibit will be held at the Leonard J. Buck Garden Visitor Center. *Suggested Donation. No registration necessary.*

Pruning Workshop - LJB

Friday March 21st 10:00am - 11:30am

Is that shrub in your backyard getting too big? Do you want to prune it yourself, but need some guidance? Then join the Buck Garden staff to learn basic pruning techniques used in the Garden. Proper pruning tools will be discussed. There will be an outdoor presentation, weather permitting. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities.
Fee: \$25



Let's Celebrate Arbor Day! - CPA

Saturday, April 26th 9am - 12pm

Visit our arboretum to pick up a free native tree seedling (one tree per household while supplies last) with selection and care advice from our horticulture staff. Stay for tree-themed craft activities, read some poet-tree and tree-via, or join a guided tour of our amazing arboretum. *No registration necessary.*

Spring Plant Sale - LJB

Saturday, April 26th 10am - 5pm

Sunday, April, 27th 12pm - 5pm

Enhance your garden with some spectacular new plant treasures and help us celebrate the arrival of spring. The plant sale will feature many choice selections of perennials, ferns, woody plants, and hypertufa planting troughs. **There will also be guided tours of this magnificent naturalistic rock garden each day at 1pm.** This event is co-sponsored with the Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. *No registration necessary.*

Woodland Walks - LJB

Sundays, April 6th, 13th, 27th 1pm

Sundays, May 4th, 18th, 25th 1pm

Brighten your spring with a captivating and informative tour of the Leonard J. Buck Garden. Enjoy the magnificent drifts of native wildflowers and spring perennials blooming throughout the garden, as well as azaleas, dogwoods, and many colorful flowering shrubs and trees. Discover the great variety of plants growing among the rock formations and woodlands, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty that surrounds you. *For organized groups and garden clubs, please call 908-722-1200 x 5621 to schedule a private tour.*

Fee: \$5 per person

Rose Garden Tours - CPG

Thursdays, May 29th & June 5th 6pm

Sundays, June 1st & June 8th 10am

Join a guided tour with our friendly and knowledgeable rosarian to learn about America's national flower, the history of the award-winning Rudolf W. van der Goot Rose Garden, how we take care of our roses, and so much more. *For organized groups and garden clubs, please call 908-722-1200 x 5721 to schedule a private tour.*

Fee: \$10 per person

50th Annual Rose Day Festival - CPG

Saturday, June 7th 11am - 5pm

Celebrate peak bloom in the Rudolf W. van der Goot Rose Garden with live music, picnicking on the rose garden lawn, roses for sale, and fun kids' activities. BYO lunch or try out one of the visiting food trucks. For all ages. Note that pets are not permitted in the Rose Garden.

No registration necessary.



Haiku in the Garden - LJB

Sunday, August 10th 12pm

Join art facilitator and seasoned haiku poet Spencer Soletto for a poetry walk in the garden. We will explore haiku, a Japanese short form of poetry, and learn how it fosters an appreciation for our natural environment. This event is accessible to those without any experience writing, and still explorative for established writers. Participants will be guided with a short lesson, a walk around the garden, and a community writing session. **Event is free, but space is limited.**

The Magical Mysterious Monarch - LJB



Friday, August 22nd 10am - 11:30am

For years, scientists wondered about the wanderings of monarch butterflies. Large numbers of monarchs are seen during the summer and early fall in the northern regions of the United States, and then great swarms are seen flying south. But until the 1970s, no one knew where they went during the winter. Join Cynthia Hedin, Somerset County Master Gardener, to learn about the discovery of the monarch's winter destination, and about the magical life cycle of the monarch.

Fee: \$20 per person



Watercolors in the Garden - LJB

Friday, September 12th 10am - 3pm

(Rain Date: Friday, September 19th)

Artist Donna Souren will lead a one-day class at Leonard J. Buck Garden to capture the garden's beauty in watercolor. Students will be guided in choosing a location when painting outdoors, paint application, mixing colors, composition, and how to create a finished watercolor painting. Basic drawing skills are recommended. Call for art supply list and bring your lunch. Ms. Souren attended the Maryland Institute College of Fine Arts and has received a vast number of awards and credit for her work.

Fee: \$40

Felt Woodland Scene - NBP

Sunday, September 14th

10am - 12pm

Learn the craft of needle felting with a relaxing workshop led by artist Mariya Kovalyov. Create an enchanting three-dimensional woodland forest floor using roving wool, natural materials, and your unique imagination. Materials and tools will be provided. For ages 12 and above.

Fee: \$65 per person.

